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Directorate of Intelligence

North Korea: Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs

CIA/SW - 192-10044CX

Intelligence Research Paper

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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November 1992

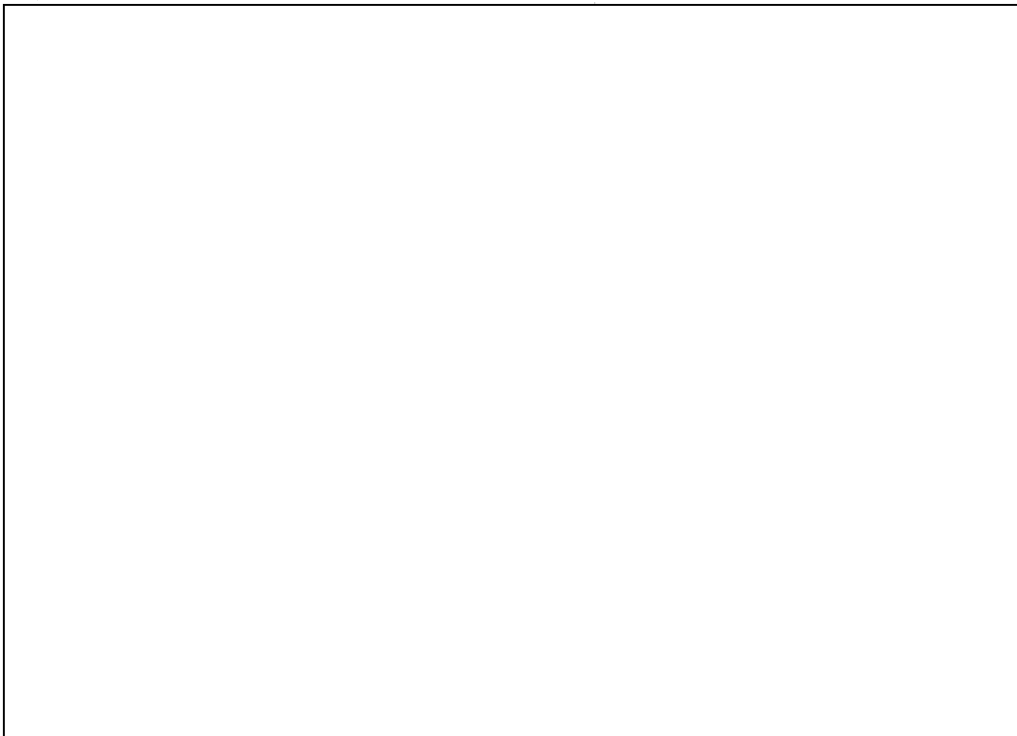
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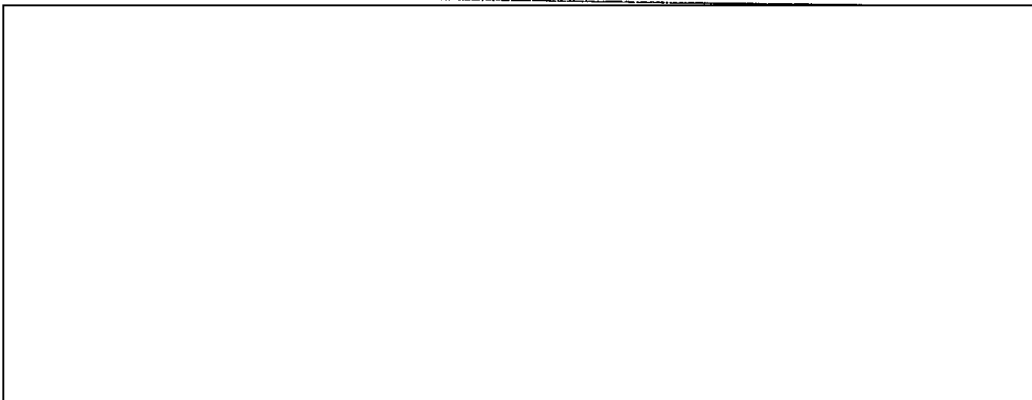


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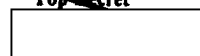


Reprocessing Plant

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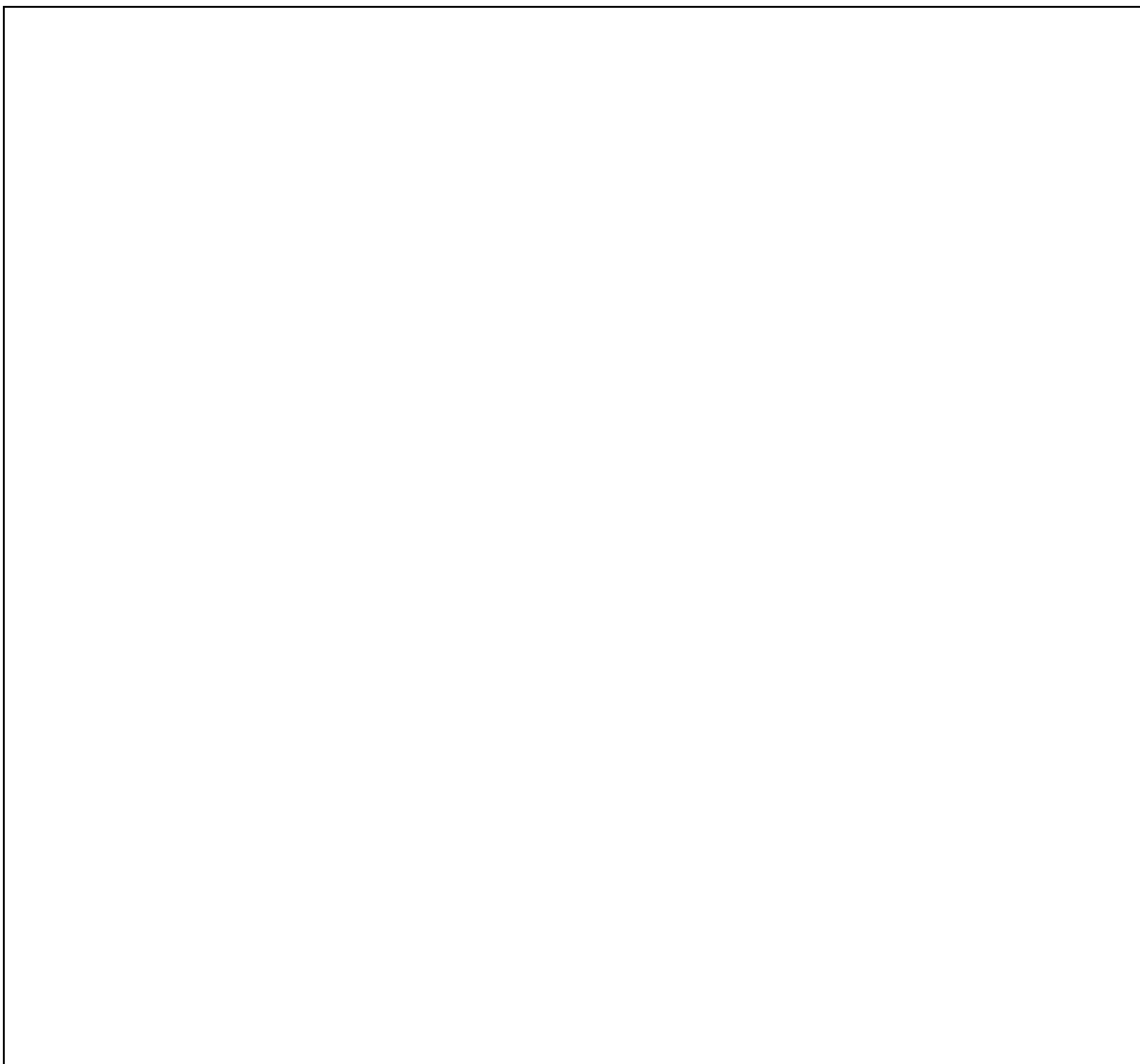


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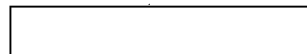
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[REDACTED]

1992, the reprocessing building is 80 percent constructed and 40 percent equipped. The equipment yet to be installed is reportedly for waste processing, including that for uranium recovery. Equipment for plutonium recovery and purification has probably been installed. The North Koreans have admitted to the IAEA that a portion of the facility was used to conduct small-scale reprocessing experiments in 1990. The IAEA has yet to verify the extent of these experiments, but North Korea claims to have produced only about 80 grams of plutonium.

[REDACTED]

Reprocessing Plant. A spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Yongbyon was externally complete in 1988 [REDACTED] Details regarding the design and operating capacity of the facility are not known, but we believe that the plant was built to reprocess the spent fuel from both production reactors at Yongbyon. North Korean officials called the facility a "radiochemical laboratory" [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

the plant could reprocess an amount of uranium equal to a reactor core load in fewer than two years. This capacity raises the possibility that the initial reactor core from the 25-MWt reactor was discharged, reprocessed, and the plutonium recovered before the first IAEA inspection. According to IAEA Director General Hans Blix, who toured the facility in mid-May

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